

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 /067 W

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R 072110Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9980

INFO DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: CONTINUING REACTION TO NEW GOVERNMENT AND UB SCANDAL

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1819

1. EL DIA OF MAY 6 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY ARMANDO ZELAYA PRESENTING A NEW EXPLANATION FOR THE UB BRIBERY SCANDAL. ACCTYTDING TO ZELAYA, THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR WAS VIEWED BY THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES AS THREATENING

THEIR INTERESTS. THE COMPANIES BELIEVED THAT THE DISPUTE WOULD CONTINUE UNRESOLVED SO LONG AS LOPEZ REMAINED IN POWER. THEREFORE, UB CREATED THE BRIBERY EPISODE AS A "SMOKESCREEN" TO CREATE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR LOPAF, ASSUMING THAT THE GENERAL'S SUCCESSOR WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH EL SALVADOR.

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2. EL DIA ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALLY

CONFIRMED MILITARY APPOINTMENTS: LT. COLONEL EFRAIN ZAVALA FUNES, DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC (TRANSITO); LT. COLONEL OSCAR ARMANDO MEJIA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES (FSP); MAJOR ENRIQUE TAYLOR CALDERINI, NATIONAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (DIN); LT. COLONEL GERARDO WILDT YATES, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS (G-3); LT. COLONEL DAGOBERTO GOMEZ SUAZO, PAYMASTER GENERAL.

3. LIBERAL TIEMPO OF MAXVU PRINTED WHAT WAS IDENTIFIED AS AN OPINION POLL OF 73 JOURNALISTS. OF THE GROUP, 59 BELIEVED THAT SOME MINISTERS WERE GUILTY IN THE UB BRIBERY EPISODE, 26 BELIEVED THAT BOTH LOPEZ AND HIS MINISTERS WERE GUILTY AND FIVE BELIEVED THAT ONLY LOPEZ WAS GUILTY. TIEMPO REPORTED THE 29 JOURNALISTS BELIEVED THE SCANDAL WAS APOLITICAL MANEUVER BY UB.

4. CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA REPORTED IN ITS MAY 7 EDITION THAT MEMBERS OF THE HONDURAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CONCIL (COHEP) MET WITH GOH OFFICIALS THE EVENING OF MAY 7. THE GOH REPRESENTATIVES WERE: MINECON ARMANDO SAN MARTIN; BENJAMIN VILLANUEVA, GOH REPRESENTATIVE TO HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE; ROBERTO VALLADARES, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INDUSTRY; RODOLFO ALVAREZ BACA, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE; FERNANDO GARCIA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL COMMERCE; JTQE VICENTE DIAZ, VICE MINISTER OF ECONOMY; AND ARTURO CORLETO, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SUPERIOR PLANNING COUNCIL. LA PRENSA REPORTED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING ARE NOT YET KNOWN.

5. RADIO REPORTS INDICATE THAT INVESTIGATING COMMISSION MEMBER MONSIGNOR SANTOS, ARCHBISHOP OF TEGUCIGALPA, HAS RETURNED TO HONDURAS. RADIO REPORTS THAT THE OTHER COMVSSION MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS WEEKEND AT LATEST.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESIDENT, PRESS COMMENTS, BANANAS, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI01849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0224
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750571/aaaacnoi.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEGUCIGALPA 1819
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING REACTION TO NEW GOVERNMENT AND UB SCANDAL
TAGS: PINT, EIND, HO, UNITED BRANDS, (LOPEZ ARELLANO, OSWALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006